

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN NEA-12

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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R 201948Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS STATE 228783

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
NOVEMBER 20, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. IN RECENT MONTHS, WE HAVE URGED THE GREEK
GOVERNMENT TO RETURN TO DEMOCRACY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND
IN LIGHT OF WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE THE WEEKEND, WHAT IS OUR
POLICY TOWARDS THIS GREEK GOVERNMENT NOW?

A. I THINK I SHOULD LEAVE THE SITUATION THIS WAY. WE HAVE
NOT CHANGED OUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT,
AND WE ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION THERE VERY CLOSELY. AND
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. HAVE WE EVER URGED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO RETURN TO
DEMOCRACY?

A. I THINK, IF YOU GO BACK OVER THE RECORD OF EXCHANGES,
THAT THERE HAS BEEN A LONG HISTORY OF CONVERSATIONS WITH
THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, BUT THE EXACT NATURE AND DEGREE OF
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EMPHASIS THAT HAS GONE ON IN EACH OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS

I WOULDN'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE, BUT I'M SURE THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AS TO THE GENERAL SENTIMENT WHICH PERVADES THIS COUNTRY. I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q. PRIOR TO DR. KISSINGER'S ASSUMPTION OF AUTHORITY HERE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IT WAS ALWAYS EXPRESSED IN TERMS WHENEVER WE WANTED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT GREECE OR WERE ASKED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT GREECE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT ALWAYS CONCLUDED WITH AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR AN EARLY RETURN TO WHAT IS CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT -- WHATEVER THAT MAY BE -- AND I'M WONDERING IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE U.S. ATTITUDE SINCE DR. KISSINGER ASSUMED THE SECRETARYSHIP, ANY CHANGE IN THE POLICY AT ALL.

A. NO. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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